

Notice of Allowability

Application No.

09/722,664

Examiner

Scott E. Jones

Applicant(s)

SHIMIZU ET AL.

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to 3/2/04.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 2-12, 14-18 and 21-47.
3. ☒ The drawings filed on 02 March 2004 are accepted by the Examiner.
4. ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.

THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

5. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
6. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
- (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
- 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
- (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.
- Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
7. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|---|--|
| 1. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 5. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| 2. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 6. <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413),
Paper No./Mail Date _____. |
| 3. <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08),
Paper No./Mail Date _____ | 7. <input type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Amendment/Comment |
| 4. <input type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit
of Biological Material | 8. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance |
| | 9. <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____. |

Reasons for Allowance

1. Claims 2-12, 14-18, and 21-47 are allowed.
2. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

Applicant's arguments, see pages 18-19, filed March 2, 2004, with respect to the rejection to claims 2-12, 14-18, and 21-47 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, first paragraph have been fully considered and are persuasive. The rejection to claims 2-12, 14-18, and 21-47 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, first paragraph has been withdrawn.

Regarding independent claim 14, although Scott-Jackson et al. (U.S. 5,714,981) discloses a temporary latch buffer memory, the reference lacks disclosing any registers which indicate a status of a copy operation for copying data from the temporary to latch buffer memory or vice versa. Scott-Jackson et al. lacks disclosing a status register comprising one or more bits indicative of a status of a copy operator for copying data from one buffer to another of a double buffer as claimed, as described on pages 20-39 of the specification, and as shown in figures 7A-11.

Regarding independent claim 21, although Scott-Jackson et al. (U.S. 5,714,981) discloses a temporary latch buffer memory, the reference lacks disclosing an interface for a video game system which includes a communication memory for storing variable size data, a double buffer memory for storing fixed size data, and a switching device for selectively connecting either the double buffer or the communication memory to the controller as claimed, as described on page 35 of the specification, and as shown in figures 7C and 8.

Regarding independent claim 24, although Nishiumi et al. (U.S. 6,200,253) discloses a control circuit (17) for receiving and transmitting data in a bit-serial fashion between bus control

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circuit (12) and connectors (181-184); a transmission circuit (172) and a reception circuit (173) having four input channels connected to a RAM (174) which is used to communicate game controller input/output data to the game system, Nishiumi et al. lacks an interface comprising a double buffered output register and a double buffered input register corresponding to each connector as claimed.

Regarding independent claim 30, although Nishiumi et al. (U.S. 6,200,253) discloses RAM (174) having storage areas 174a-174h for storing transmission and reception data for channels 1-4, Nishiumi et al. lacks disclosing first and second different storage devices for data transferred between the game program executing system and the controllers. Moreover, Nishiumi et al. lacks disclosing selector circuitry for selectively connecting the controllers to either the first or second storage devices as claimed.

Regarding independent claims 36 and 38, although Nishiumi et al. (U.S. 6,200,253) discloses storing reception data in RAM (174), Nishiumi et al. lacks disclosing using selector circuitry to supply data to controllers from either the first or second storage devices as claimed.

Regarding independent claim 44, although Scott-Jackson et al. (U.S. 5,714,981) discloses a temporary latch buffer memory, the reference lacks disclosing input/output data from the game peripheral device/executing system is copied from a first output register to a second output register of the double output register after the output data is written to the first output register, and copying the first output register to the second output register is selectively lockable as claimed.

Regarding independent claim 46, although Nishiumi et al. (U.S. 6,200,253) discloses RAM (174) having storage areas 174a-174h for storing transmission and reception data for

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channels 1-4, Nishiumi et al. lacks disclosing a first storage device for storing data of a first type which is transmitted to or received from a peripheral device connected to the connector, and a second different storage device for storing data of a second type which is transmitted to or received from a peripheral device connected to the connector, and a switching device for selectively connecting the peripheral device to either the first storage device or the second storage device as claimed.

These statements are not intended to necessarily state all of the reasons for allowance or all the details why the claims are allowed and should not imply that all the reasons for allowance have been set forth.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Conclusion


Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Scott E. Jones whose telephone number is (703) 308-7133. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday - Thursday, 6:30 A.M. - 5:00 P.M..

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Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

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JESSICA HARRISON
PRIMARY EXAMINER